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Avalanche Notes

U.S. Forest Service
Westwide Avalanche Network

MARCH, 1978

In March the stormtrack favored the southwestern U.S., from southern California to northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Stations in this region all recorded above normal snowfall: Mammoth Mountain, 180%; Aspen, 154%; Vail, 160%; and Taos, 130%. Farther north, snowfall was slightly below normal: Alpine Meadows, 83%; Alta, 98%; and Berthoud Pass, 98%. And farther north still, snowfall was much below normal: Jackson Hole, 35%; Bridger Bowl, 48%; Sun Valley, 57%; Crystal Mountain, 19%; and Mt. Rainier-Paradise, Stevens Pass, Mt. Baker, all 34%. It has indeed been a mostly dry winter in the Cascades of Oregon and Washington, and the winter's avalanche totals from this region are down markedly. For December through March, the heaviest and lightest total snowfalls at Westwide Avalanche Network sites both come from Alaska. Alyeska received 501 inches during this period, and Eaglecrest, a mere 75.5 inches.

From February 26 - March 7, a major snowstorm raged in the southern and central Colorado mountains. Elkton received 116 inches of snow during this 10-day storm, certainly a record for Colorado in recent years. Avalanche warnings were raised during this storm, and two accidents did occur: an unoccupied cabin was damaged by a massive avalanche at Gothic, and car was struck on Wolf Creek Pass but with no injury.

Around the West, there were no major avalanche accidents for the month. The winter's avalanche statistics through March are tabulated below:

Total Avalanches Reported			Damage Summary - This Winter								
Area	This Month	This Winter	People				Vehicles		Avalanche Damaged		
			<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Bldgs</u>	<u>Lifts</u>	<u>Misc.</u>
Central and So.											
Rockies	747	2273	34	13	3	4	6	2	1	10	2
Intermountain	448	2482	42	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Coast	842	4736	41	21	3	8	12	3	4	2	0
All Areas	2037	9491	117	47	9	12	18	5	5	2	2

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ALPINE SNOW AND AVALANCHE RESEARCH PROJECT
RM STATION FORT COLLINS, COLO.

MARCH 1978

SUMMARY OF WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS

AREA	SNOWFALL				WATER EQUIVALENT				SNOW DEPTH				TEMPERATURE				WIND SPEED AND DIRECTION			
	MAX				MAX				D				MEAN				6 HOUR PERIODS			
	IN.				IN.				A				DEGREES F				GE			
	TOTAL SNOW- FALL IN.	AVG DEN	IN.	E	TOTAL WATER IN.	IN.	HR.	24 IN.	D A	NUMBER OF DAYS	T GE	A GE	MAX	MEAN	MIN	AVG	15	20	FASTEST HOUR	DIR.
INTERMOUNTAIN																				
ALTA, UTAH	85.0	.11	13	6	9.36	1.10	3	14	13	9	5	131	7	96	113	38.1	19.5	28.8	--	--
BRIDGER BOWL, MONT	29.5	.06	10	15	1.91	1.05	24	3	2	1	1	99	2	77	90	39.1M	21.3M	30.2M	14.3	59 31 42 90 2
GRAND TARGHEE, WYO	35.0	.08	8	13	2.80	.65	10	8	5	4	0	103	13	80	93	37.9M	23.9M	30.9M	--	--
JACKSON HOLE 1, WYO	24.5	.08	5	5	2.08	.42	14	8	5	0	0	124	14	98	113	28.7	18.3	23.5	15.3M	53M 33M
SLIDE MT, NEVADA	35.5	--	10	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SNOWBIRD, UTAH	81.5	.12	14	5	9.90	1.58	5	13	11	8	4	122	6	81	104	40.0	22.5	31.3	19.7M	86M 49M
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO	16.5	.11	7	5	1.82	1.00	5	4	2	1	1	77	5	58	67	39.0	21.3	30.2	8.4	19 6 34 270 14
TETON PASS, WYO 22	24.0	.10	10	13	2.51	1.00	13	5	4	2	1	--	--	--	--	35.5M	21.1M	28.3M	--	--
WEST COAST																				
ALPENTAL, WASH	38.0	.10	16	14	3.96	1.48	14	8	7	2	1	96	14	64	78	43.1	30.9	37.0	--	--
ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	44.0	.16	14	5	7.07	2.08	5	12	10	3	2	129	6	103	114	46.0	30.3	38.1	11.0	33 20 45 240 8
ALYESKA, ALASKA	122.0	.08	18	15	9.19	1.50	16	13	11	8	4	180	16	144	161	28.4M	20.1M	24.2M	5.3M	7M 2M 30 -- 12
CARSON PASS CALIF 88	75.5	.09	26	5	6.98	2.82	5	11	7	4	2	128	5	94	109	47.5	28.3	37.9	15.2M	43M 27M -- --
CRYSTAL MIN 1, WASH	10.7	.07	5	1	3.09	.76	7	6	5	2	0	48	1	28	39	41.3	26.2	33.7	13.0	49 24 36 170 6
CRYSTAL MIN 2, WASH	20.1	.13	6	7	2.63	.95	7	9	3	2	0	90	12	75	83	34.7	25.2	29.9	13.0	49 25 36 170 6
EAGLECREST, ALASKA	28.0	--	4	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	47	26	26	36	32.7M	21.9M	27.3M	19.1M	71M 53M -- --
HEAVENLY VALLEY, CAL	57.0	--	20	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	105	5	86	94	--	--	--	--	--
MAMMOTH MIN, CALIF	85.5	.11	20	4	9.50	2.10	4	13	13	7	3	180	5	137	157	37.9	25.6	31.8	6.1	22 6 37 VAR 8
MISSION RIDGE, WASH	3.5	.19	2	7	.68	.50	7	2	1	1	0	52	4	30	44	41.7	26.1	33.9	8.3	20 3 33 270 26
MT. BAKER, WASH	41.2	.19	12	25	13.13	3.00	25	13	11	7	5	134	25	116	124	--	--	--	9.6M	28M 8M -- --
MT. RAINIER PARADISE	42.2	.12	7	4	6.38	.81	7	14	10	6	0	152	14	129	141	38.9M	26.6M	32.8M	8.3M	5M 1M 3A 220 13
PINE CREEK MILL, CAL	16.0	.06	12	4	.92	.42	3	3	2	0	0	38	4	0	14	42.7	28.9	35.8	3.0	0 0 1A 190 10
SQUAW VALLEY, CALIF	62.0	.18	12	3	11.55	2.45	4	12	12	8	4	185	6	157	169	51.5M	28.3	39.9M	--	--
STEVENS PASS, WASH	28.0	.08	8	14	3.81	.85	24	11	6	2	0	99	15	75	87	39.1	27.5	33.3	7.7	1 0 21 240 13
STEVENS PASS 5E WASH	32.0	.09	14	14	3.33	.85	24	7	7	2	0	111	14	78	94	39.8	28.2	34.0	10.1M	14M 3M 26 240 14
SUGAR BOWL, CALIF	33.0	--	12	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	136	5	98	119	44.2M	25.4M	34.8M	14.3M	72M 24M -- --

ALPINE SNOW AND AVALANCHE RESEARCH PROJECT
RM STATION FORT COLLINS, COLO.

MARCH 1978
AVALANCHE SUMMARY[illegible]

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS

ASPEN HIGHLANDS, COL	17	31	2	26	4	3+	8	15	2	3	2	0	12	5	0	11	5	4	2600
ASPEN MOUNTAIN, COLO	7	8	4	31	6	31	2	7	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	5	0	0	300
ASPEN SNOWMASS, COLO	15	31	3	31	8	4	5	12	3	0	7	0	8	6	0	13	1	0	500
BERTHOUD PASS, COLO	64	265	6	31	25	7	10	11	53	18	26	0	20	28	2	49	17	1	1000
BERTHOUD PASS U.S. 40	9	21	7	31	7	7	3	0	9	0	3	1	5	3	0	8	4	1	1600
BRECKENRIDGE, COLO	14	107	2	25	4	20	6	12	14	0	1	13	0	1	0	13	0	0	325
CAMP BIRD MINE, COLO	7	16	1	31	4	30	4	0	7	0	0	6	1	0	0	1	1	1	1000
CLIMAX-COLO HWY 91	7	7	8	24	2	24+	5	1	7	0	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	150
COLO HIGHWAY 110	9	13	31	31	9	31	1	0	9	0	0	4	5	3	3	9	9	7	3000
COPPER MT, COLO	11	39	3	17	5	5	5	4	2	2	9	0	0	3	1	9	6	0	750
ELKTON, COLORADO	8	27	4	16	4	16	4	0	8	0	8	0	0	3	1	4	3	2	2300
GENEVA BASIN, COLO	25	54	1	28	4	24	14	0	5	3	15	3	4	5	1	12	4	0	600
GOTHIC, COLO	192	476	1	31	25	3	27	4	192	3	124	1	64	99	18	190	148	82	3250
IDARADO MINE, COLO	2	2	7	7	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	2	2	3300+
LIZARD HD PASS, COLO	3	7	2	30	1	30+	3	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	800
LOVELAND BASIN, COLO	2	32	4	30	1	30+	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	200
LOVELAND PASS U.S. 6	48	165	1	31	15	7	12	4	45	1	13	3	31	9	0	32	14	5	1050
MONARCH, COLORADO	20	68	3	31	6	14	11	16	1	19	2	10	8	8	3	14	2	0	500
OPHIR, COLORADO	2	39	7	7	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2400
RED MTN PASS U.S. 550	109	310	1	31	19	2	15	2	89	0	37	4	64	19	9	72	46	13	2300
SILVERTON, COLO	5	19	21	31	2	31	4	0	5	0	0	1	4	1	0	4	4	2	1166
STEAMBOAT SPRNGS, CO	7	36	1	25	3	4+	3	3	7	0	1	4	0	1	0	6	5	0	675
SUNLIGHT, COLORADO	12	37	2	24	3	24	6	11	1	0	11	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	180
TAOS, NEW MEXICO	131	295	2	31	63	3	10	4	117	14	33	92	6	95	20	124	83	2	1400
TELLURIDE, COLO	4	29	1	31	2	31	3	0	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	3	2	1	1500
URAD MINE, COLO	10	17	7	31	4	7	5	0	1	9	4	5	0	1	6	10	9	3	2000
VAIL, COLO	4	16	3	29	2	14	3	6	3	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	500
WOLF CRK PASS US 160	3	6	6	6	3	6	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	300

MARCH 1978
AVALANCHE SUMMARY

AREA	TOTAL NO.	TOTAL NO.	DATES OF	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH	TYPE OF AVALANCHE	FRACTURE LINE HEIGHTS IN FEET	VERTICAL DESCENT IN FEET	AVAILS ACROSS MAJOR ACCESS ROADS NO.
ALTA, UTAH	112	535	2 25	18 5	1 111	1 28	112 72	12 1200
BIG SKY, MONT	95	494	1 31	22 6	1 74	15 2	92 47	6 1100
BRIDGER BOWL, MONT	34	200	8 31	11 15	6 28	2 0	33 26	12 2000
JACKSON HOLE, WYO	37	430	4 28	22 13	4 33	0 0	36 0	0 400
SLIDE MIN, NEVADA	4	9	3 5	3 3	4 4	1 0	4 4	1 1000
SNOW BASIN, UTAH	21	29	5 14	8 10	3 18	7 0	0 0	0 150+
SNOWBIRD, UTAH	122	675	3 31	36 5	18 104	25 2	93 63	27 1500
WASATCH RANGE, UTAH	23	40	5 15	15 5	19 4	21 2	21 17	7 2200+

==DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING
GE=GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO
+=ALSO OCCURRED ON OTHER DATES

MARCH 1978
AVALANCHE SUMMARY

WEST COAST---=DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING

GE=GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO

* = ALSO OCCURRED ON OTHER DATES

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Intermountain Forest &
Range Experiment Station